

ST. GERMANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR 1946.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this Annual report on the health of the Rural District for the year 1946.

Before submitting this report, I should like to pay tribute to my predecessor (Dr.H.G.Robinson) who died on the 12th July, 1946, having served your Council for nearly a quarter of a century. I should also like to express my thanks in the honour you have done me in electing me to fill the vacancy as your Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A. STATISTICSPopulation.

The estimated population for the year is 15,470 and the area in acres, 48,433. The population is mainly employed in agriculture and market gardening.

Vital Statistics.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	78	75	153
Illegitimate	3	4	7

Total live births - 160.

<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	1	-	1

Total Stillbirths 1.

The Birth Rate per thousand population	-	10.34
Live Birth Rate for England & Wales	-	19.1
Live Birth Rate for the County	-	18.1
Still-Birth Rate per thousand population	-	0.064
Still-Birth Rate for England & Wales	-	0.53
Still-Birth Rate for the County	-	0.49

The total number of deaths in the district for the year was 196, representing a death rate of 12.67 compared with 11.5 for England and Wales and 14.32 for Cornwall.

Appended is a table of causes of death and age incidence. recorded. (See Appendix i)

SECTION B.

Public Health Officers.

(1) Mr. Govett, your chief Sanitary Inspector, continues to do excellent work ably assisted by Mr. W.E. Grylls. The year has seen the return of Mr. Williams to the district, this trio work in close harmony.

(2) Bacteriological investigations continue to be carried out for the Rural District by arrangement with the County Laboratories at Truro and the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Plymouth.

(3) Ambulance arrangements are available at Callington and parts of the Rural District are served from Saltash and Liskeard.

(4) The County Nursing Association's activities in the District remain practically the same.

(5) The Infant and Child Welfare Clinics at Callington and Downderry continue to function satisfactorily and serve a wide area.

SECTION C.

Water Supply.

Last year my report contained a comparatively comprehensive survey of the water supply conditions obtaining in this district and it will therefore be unnecessary to repeat much information which was contained therein. It should be most gratifying to the Council that mainly through their own initiative and foresight some ten years ago, every parish in the district can now pride itself in having a piped water supply system under pressure for practically the whole of the built-up areas. Since the passing of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, was obviously intended to provide for piped supply facilities to the more isolated part of rural areas, and particularly in relation to agriculture, the Council has properly given consideration to further watermain extensions, and in due course, schemes will be prepared and submitted for the necessary approvals.

It is significant that when once a supply of pipe water under pressure is made available, a constant increase in demand is apparent. Approximately 90% of the houses in the district are already provided with piped supplies and during the year, ninety four further services were connected with the public mains.

Occasional analyses are made of samples of water from the main sources of supply for the district, and almost without exception, satisfactory results were obtained. Six samples from private sources were analysed during the year; three were satisfactory, and the others indicated that the supplies were unsafe for drinking purposes. In one case arrangements were made for a service to be laid on from the main and protective measures have been adopted in respect of the other two sources of supply.

At Callington, some further progress has been made on watermain extensions, and quite a large proportion of the town mains is now in good condition. The 5" main in Launceston Road is very old, and will require considerable attention until renewal is effected.

The construction of a new 3" main between Narkurs and Deviock School, a distance of about three quarters of a mile, has been carried out, and provides a satisfactory solution to a long standing water supply problem in that neighbourhood. A contribution of £375 towards the cost of the scheme was received from the Ministry of Works.

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal.

The reconstruction of the Fore Street, Callington sewerage system has been the subject of negotiations between the Council and the County Highway Department, and agreement has been reached whereby the construction of the combined system will operate and the cost of the new work is to be borne by the two authorities. Arrangements for the commencement of the work have been completed, and the removal of an obsolete mason's sewer and its many unsatisfactory drain connections in the centre of the town will soon be an accomplished fact. There still remain considerable lengths of mason's sewer in the town, and their displacement should be contemplated in the near future, together with the provision of satisfactory outfall sewers and sewage treatment works. The present system of sewage disposal under which it is impossible to eliminate sewage from the watercourse below the outfall gives rise to not a little concern as to the risks which are being taken.

Another centre of unsatisfactory sewerage exists at Gunnislake where soil and subsoil water sewers are combined and the general lay-out of the system needs modernising. Further, the rather extensive disused mine workings in the vicinity appear to have been responsible for the sudden collapse of an Adit and an outcrop of subsoil water in King Street. This created a problem as to responsibility, but ultimately an agreement was reached between the three interested parties, namely, the Duchy, the County Highway Department, and the Council, whereby each is to bear approximately one-third of the cost of the construction of a new length of combined sewer, and it is expected that the work will be carried out during the coming year.

In due course a scheme for amalgamating the existing outfall sewers at Gunnislake and the construction of a new outfall sewer with possibly sewage sedimentation tanks in the vicinity of Weir Head should be considered together with general improvements in the sewerage system of the locality.

Refuse Collection & Disposal.

All but a few comparatively isolated places in the district are now covered by the Council's refuse collection system. Arrangements have been made for the district to be served by two refuse collection vehicles operating in the northern and southern parts of the district, respectively. In the southern part, the disposal of house refuse is carried out by incineration as far as practicable, but some difficulty is experienced in disposing of cumbersome refuse such as old refuse bins, baths, oil stoves, perambulators, iron bedsteads, etc. These have to be dumped, and it is not always easy to avoid an appearance of untidiness around the site. Some additional land is inevitably required on this account. The disposal of refuse in the northern part of the district is effected principally by dumping on waste land which the Council has acquired in the parish of Callington.

Owing to the difficulty in obtaining suitable covering materials in the vicinity of the site, the disposal of house refuse here cannot be regarded as altogether satisfactory.

Public Convenience.

As soon as circumstances permit, the two men's public conveniences at Kingsand and Cawsand are intended to be remodelled and brought up to date. Their present dilapidated appearance in these seaside villages, which attract thousands of summer visitors, does not enhance the local amenities.

It is expected that a loan will be sanctioned for remodelling the existing public conveniences and the provision of such accommodation for ladies at Millbrook will be carried out in time for the summer season.

At Seaton, Downderry, a very popular seaside resort, the need for a public convenience for both sexes is most pronounced, and if, as might be expected, the proposed new sewerage system materialises, the provision of such accommodation should be carried out simultaneously.

SECTION D.

Housing.

The inspection and repair of many of the houses in the district is necessarily postponed owing to the acute shortage in housing accommodation and the practical impossibility in obtaining sufficient priority for the necessary labour and materials to carry out the most essential work.

Considerable progress has been made on new housing schemes and building operations are proceeding in several parts of the district. Permanent houses of traditional form of construction are most favoured by the Council, but it is expected that at least 50 houses of the non-traditional "Airey" form of construction will be allocated to the district.

Some temporary housing accommodation is being provided at Downderry for several families by alterations and adaptations to R.A.F. Huts which have been transferred to the Ministry of Health for this purpose. The work is being carried out under the supervision of the Council's Officers and the Council will be reimbursed the expenditure incurred with the Ministry's approval.

SECTION E.

Milk

Frequent inspection of premises in the district used for milk production and distribution are made and by informal methods: many of the premises are modernised and put in satisfactory sanitary condition. Most of the milk sampling and testing is carried out by the Officers of the County Dairy Department who systematically consult the Council's officers on any points relative to structural alterations to premises and general sanitary requirements particularly before producers become "Accredited". On occasions when milk sampling by the Council's officers is considered desirable, samples are collected for qualitative and bacteriological analyses and, if necessary, appropriate action taken.

Meat and Other Foods.

Inspection of meat in the district is chiefly confined to butchers' shops, owing to the fact that practically all legitimately slaughtered meat for human consumption takes place in other districts where systematic inspection is carried out.

Investigation on the methods adopted by manufacturers of ice-cream in the district have been carried out and samples of ice-cream analysed. With one exception the samples were satisfactory and informal action against the offender achieved the desired result. Samples of sugar, margarine, ice-cream powder, flour and skimmed milk powder were also analysed and found to be satisfactory.

Notifications for 1946 - See Appendix ii

SECTION F.Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases

There was a marked falling off of Infectious Diseases during the year. Sixty one (328) cases of measles were notified and forty-one (28) cases of Whooping Cough. No cases of Diphtheria occurred in the Rural District during the year compared with 7 for 1945, five cases of Scarlet Fever (23) were notified. Other infectious diseases notified were twelve (17) pneumonia, six cases of Erysipelas and one case of Puerperal Pyrexia.

(Figures in brackets are notifications for 1945).

Tuberculosis

Eleven cases of Respiratory tuberculosis and one non-respiratory case were notified during the year. In addition two cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were recorded from Death Returns which had not been reported.

During the year three deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis were recorded.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

F.A. TROWBRIDGE.



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Appendix i.

CAUSE OF DEATH AND AGE INCIDENCE

	M	F	Un der 1	2	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75 & over
			1	2	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fever												
Measles												
Scarlet Fever												
Whooping Cough												
Diphtheria												
Influenza	6	3										
Encephalitis Lethargica												
Cerebro-Spinal Fever												
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	3										
Other tuberculosis diseases												
Syphilis												
General Paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis												
Cancer, Malignant disease	6	11										
Diabetes		2										
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	7	20										
Heart Disease	39	35										
Aneurysm	1											
Other Circulatory diseases	3	1										
Bronchitis	6	3										
Pneumonia (all forms)	8	4										
Other respiratory diseases	2											
Peptic Ulcer		1										
Diarrhoea etc.(under 2 years)												
Appendicitis												
Cirrhosis of liver												
Other diseases of liver etc.		1										
Other digestive diseases		3										
Acute & Chronic Nephritis	2	2										
Puerperal Sepsis												
Other Puerperal causes												
Congenital debility, premature birth, Malformation etc.	2	1	2M 1F									
Senility	3	5										
Suicide	3											
Other Violence	1											
Other defined Diseases	4	3										
Causes ill-defined or unknown		1										
	97	99										
Total							196					

Appendix ii.

NOTIFICATIONS FOR 1946.

Age	MEASLES		WHOOPING COUGH		SCARLET FEVER	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1		1	3	3		
1 - 3	7	6	3	4		1
3 - 5	12	6	5	4		1
55 - 10	13	10	10	6		1
10 - 15	2		1	1		1
15 - 25	1					
25 & over	1			1		1
Total	36	25	22	19	2	3

Age	PNEUMONIA		ERYSIPelas	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5	1	1		
5 - 15	2			
15 - 45		1		2
45 - 65	1		2	
65 & over	3	1	1	1
Total	7	5	3	3

